

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 H-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

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R 222357 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E. O.11652: ADS

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJ: RATTAN POLE EMBARGO

REF: MANILA 6938

1. PHILIPPINE EMBARGO ON RATTAN POLE EXPORTS AROUSING CONCERN IN U. S. INDUSTRY. DEPT HAS ALSO RECEIVED SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES AND WE INFORMED SENATOR TAFT PLANS REFER TO PROBLEM ON SENATE FLOOR NEXT WEEK.

2. INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE ESTIMATES PHILIPPINE RATTAN EXPORTS TO U. S. AT DOLS TWO MILLION ANNUALLY, TO 16 OR MORE MANUFACTURERS WITH 3,000 TO 3,500 EMPLOYEES. INVENTORIES VARY BUT SOME WILL BE FORCED STOP PRODUCTION IF
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SHIPMENTS NOT RESUMED WITHIN ONE MONTH. NOTES THAT IT NOT
CLEAR WHAT INVOLVED IN HONORING EXTANT CONTRACTS (REFTEL)

BUT IN ANY CASE PRECIPITATE ACTION BY GOP WILL PROBABLY
NOT PERMIT SHIFTING TO NEW SUPPLIERS WITHOUT INTERRUPTING
PRODUCTION, WHICH COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT SHIFT BY CON-
SUMERS TO OTHER PRODUCTS. ALSO NOTES THAT CHANGE TO OTHER
SUPPLIERS MIGHT MEAN CHANGE OF STYLES AND TECHNIQUES
BECAUSE OF VARYING QUALITIES AVAILABLE, WHICH WOULD IN
TURN TEND PRECLUDE RETURN TO PHILIPPINE SOURCES LATER.
FINALLY, DOUBTS THAT PHILIPPINE MANUFACTURERS WOULD BE
ABLE ABSORB CURRENT STOCKS OF RATTAN IN COUNTRY, AND ARGUES
THAT COST OF SHIPPING MANUFACTURED FURNITURE, AS WELL AS
DIFFICULTY IN QUICKLY ESTABLISHING U. S. MARKETING OPERA-
TIONS ON LARGE SCALE, LIKELY PRECLUDE PHILIPPINE MANUFAC-
TURERS BENEFITING FROM LOSS BY U. S. PRODUCERS.

3. INDUSTRY REPS GERALD J. FICKS AND EDWARD MILLER PLAN-
NING VISIT MANILA EARLY JULY IN EFFORT GAIN ELIMINATION
OR MODERATION OF EXPORT PROHIBITION. REQUEST EMBASSY
ASSIST.

4. PENDING THEIR ARRIVAL SUGGEST EMBASSY APPROACH PHILIP-
PINE GOVERNMENT AS APPROPRIATE, POINTING OUT ECONOMIC
CONSEQUENCES OF EMBARGO AS APPLIED, AND NOTING DISRUPTIVE
ACTION OF THIS SORT, EVEN IN RELATIVELY SMALL MARKET,
COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MARKETING PROSPECTS FOR RATTAN
AND RATTAN PRODUCTS FOR SOME TIME. RUSH

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